

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

NOVEMBER 24, 2009

Permitting Auditor-Controller access to DCFS case files

At the July 28, 2009 meeting, the Board of Supervisors instructed the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to work with the Auditor-Controller (A-C) and the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to: 1) gather the demographics of all children in DCFS' system and their fatalities, homicide or accidental, for the past three years; 2) identify any underlying trends or issues; and 3) analyze those trends and issues to determine how they may contribute to deficiencies in existing policies as they relate to the identifying, assigning, reporting, and monitoring of cases.

To complete their investigation, the Auditor-Controller requires access to specific DCFS case files in order to test the accuracy of the demographic and case management information which DCFS has collected and analyzed. Such testing will allow the Auditor-Controller to finalize its report and for the Board of Supervisors to have comprehensive information regarding the trends, issues and DCFS' policies surrounding child fatalities as well as information regarding specific fatality cases. To do this, it is

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necessary to modify the special investigation previously ordered by this Board.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Auditor-Controller to:

1. Access all relevant information in the possession of DCFS, which the Auditor-Controller deems necessary to complete its investigation into child fatalities. Relevant information shall include, but is not necessarily limited to, DCFS juvenile case files required to test the accuracy of demographic and case management information collected and analyzed by the Auditor-Controller as part of this investigation.
2. Report the outcome of its investigation in a confidential report to the Board of Supervisors within 90 days of approval of this motion so that maximum protection of privacy and confidentiality rights may be maintained.
3. Maintain the confidentiality of all information provided by DCFS to the Auditor-Controller and not disclose that information other than in the Auditor-Controller's confidential report to the Board of Supervisors or as otherwise permitted by applicable law.

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I FURTHER MOVE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer to instruct the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services to:

1. Immediately permit the Auditor-Controller to receive and review any records in the custody of DCFS relating to a child who has died and who previously came to the attention of, or was under the supervision of, DCFS and which records the Auditor-Controller seeks to review in order to carry out this special investigation into child fatalities.

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